GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2917
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2000
SOLAR ENERGY
SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the energy produced from Solar in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to develop solar energy as an alternate energy source as it has been found cost-effective?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a) Solar energy is currently being used in the country through two principal routes - the thermal route for water heating, drying, cooking etc. and the photovoltaic route for converting the light to electricity which can be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, pumping, communication, refrigeration and power generation. The estimated energy production during the last three years from various solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems installed in the country is given in the Annexure.

(b) Solar energy has been found to be cost effective for applications such as water heating, cooking and for meeting small power requirements in unelectrified areas. The Ministry is implementing several programmes to promote awareness and to support the use of various solar energy products in the country by providing fiscal and financial incentives. Among the steps taken in recent years are:

(i) Soft loan schemes have been introduced for solar thermal systems through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and some banks.

(ii) A World Bank assisted soft loan scheme for photovoltaic market development is being implemented by IREDA.

(iii) R&D projects aimed at improving the efficiency, reliability and economics of solar products are being supported.

(iv) A soft loan scheme for supporting photovoltaic manufacturing activities has been introduced.

(v) Special demonstration projects in new application areas and for developing new markets are being funded through grants.

(vi) A model building bye-law for making solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in several categories of buildings has been drafted and circulated to all State Governments.

(vii) A scheme to involve self employed workers in the promotion of solar cookers has been introduced.

(viii) Certain regions in the country have been designated as high focus areas for the implementation of the solar photovoltaic programme.

(ix) Other government departments are being encouraged to use solar energy systems wherever they are cost effective.

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2917 for 10/8/2000 regarding solar energy

The estimated energy production from solar energy in the country during the last three years:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Electrical energy produced from photovoltaic systems installed in the country			
(in million kWh electrical)	36.45	45.225	51.975
Thermal energy produced from solar thermal systems installed			

in the country (in million kWh thermal)	429.25	463.80	495.72